

Research Support Funding Program

What is the Research Support Funding Program?

The Research Support Funding Program is a new initiative that seeks to promote economic development, create high-tech jobs, and raise the average standard of living of Kentucky residents through strategic investments in research faculty, infrastructure, and initiatives at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. To help accomplish this goal, campus administrators are expected to recruit and retain research active faculty, renovate laboratories and upgrade equipment, and engage in disciplinary and interdisciplinary research activities in areas of strategic benefit to the Commonwealth.

How does the program work?

The program provides funding for the research universities in three areas. Research capacity funds (\$4 million recurring) will be used to hire research active faculty in targeted priority areas. Infrastructure funds (\$15 million nonrecurring) will support laboratory renovations and equipment purchases in CPE-designated priority areas. Finally, research initiative funds (\$3 million nonrecurring) will support disciplinary and interdisciplinary research activities that address regional or state needs, contribute to generation of federal and extramural R&D expenditures, foster increased innovation and opportunities for commercialization, and stimulate business development.

What is the Council's request?

The Council on Postsecondary Education seeks \$4 million of recurring funds and \$18 million of nonrecurring funds in FY 2006-07 to recruit and retain research active faculty, renovate laboratories and upgrade equipment, and undertake disciplinary and interdisciplinary research initiatives in areas of strategic benefit to the Commonwealth.

Why is funding needed?

The Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 stipulates that, by the year 2020, Kentucky's postsecondary education system is to produce (1) a major comprehensive research institution ranked nationally in the top 20 public universities at the University of Kentucky and (2) a premier nationally recognized metropolitan research university at the University of Louisville. Acting on these objectives, the Kentucky Department of Commercialization and Innovation, the Council on Postsecondary Education, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville developed a goal of reaching \$500 million in extramural R&D expenditures by the year 2010. To achieve this goal, both universities need substantial investments in infrastructure to support a healthy research enterprise. These funds will provide that investment and support university efforts to generate increases in federal and extramural R&D expenditures, foster increased innovation and opportunities for commercialization, and stimulate business development.



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